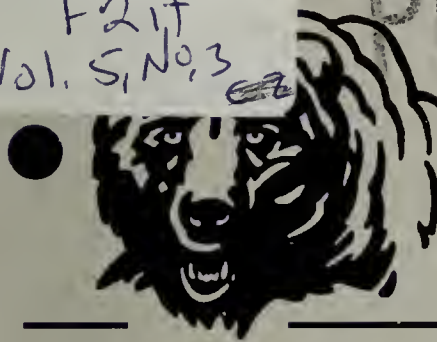


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Vol. 5, No. 3



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# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

INSIDE

TRACKS

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The Newsletter of Region One

Volume 5, No. 3

Summer 1996

## Anglers with Disabilities Find Success on Flathead Lake

The second annual Fishing Without Barriers Day on Flathead Lake held June 15 was a rousing success. A total of 24 anglers with disabilities caught 30 lake trout; 5 of these trout exceeded 30 inches in length.

The Montana Charterboat Association, through coordinator Mike Pitzen, made the event possible by providing seven boats free of charge.

**GREAT CATCH!** A-1 Fishing Charters' Beau Renfro and Matthew Tindale show a lake trout caught by angler Al Herset on Fishing Without Barriers Day, held June 15 on Flathead Lake. A fish fry followed the outing.

**IT'S A SUCCESSFUL DAY** when anglers bring in 30 lake trout. Jeff Rach of Flathead Lake Charters hoists fish caught by Amanda Evenson and Willie Ragan. The Montana Charterboat Association made the event possible for the 24 anglers who participated.

The charterboat captains and two private boat skippers hosted the anglers



and their caregivers.

Jim Tebay of Woods Bay Marina graciously offered the use of his facilities for boat launching and picnicking. Members of the FWP Crossing the Barriers Committee and other volunteers cleaned and cooked fish and prepared lunch for the participants.

Angler Allen Herset enjoyed the trip and was able to take his son along to assist him in pulling in the fish. "Thank you so very much for the great fishing trip!" he wrote to the Montana Charterboat Association.

Allen donated a few fish to the barbecue held after the trip and also took a few fish home to enjoy with his family.

(Cont. on Page 3)

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## Managers Implement Wild Horse Island Plan

Managers have implemented an aggressive program to control noxious weeds and maintain natural habitat on Flathead Lake's Wild Horse Island.

The 2,100 acre island is home to native ponderosa pine/palouse prairie range—a rare habitat type that has

mostly been plowed under in the west. Noxious weeds (namely spotted knapweed, leafy spurge and Canada thistle) threaten some areas of native vegetation. Managers have used a combination of techniques, including spraying, (Cont. on Page 2)



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# Young Anglers Learn from Experts

The Angler Education Program in northwest Montana continues to build momentum. The course, modeled after Montana's hunter education course, includes a mix of classroom and field experience for students 10-12 years of age. Fishing experts from Libby held their first-ever course in May, graduating 30 students.

"It was really a lot of fun for the instructors as well as the students," said course organizer Mike Hensler of FWP. "It takes a tremendous amount of work to put on one of these courses

and would have been impossible without the help of all the volunteer instructors."

Hensler noted that 14 citizens and 5 FWP employees assisted in organizing the course and providing instruction. Bass aficionado Rick Gullingsrud and fly fishing expert Dave Blackburn took on much of the work.

The young anglers took part in two nights of classroom instruction and a field day near FWP's Libby Field Station where they fished for trout with fly fishing and spinning gear. Some of the students caught trout on flies they had tied the previous night. Students also learned about fish habitat, aquatic insects, fish identification, angler ethics and water safety.

"You could see the kids picking up new things as the course went along," said Hensler. "And I know they had a lot of fun."

Angler Education Courses were also held in March and June in Kalispell, and courses are tentatively planned for Eureka and Noxon later in the summer. Anyone interested in organizing an angler education course can contact John Fraley (752-5501 days; 752-8506 evenings) at FWP in Kalispell. A new manual for teaching the course is now available, along with numerous teaching aids and fishing materials. 🐟



**FIRST FISH.** A student in the spring Libby Angler Education class shows a trout she caught on field day near Libby. This is the first fish this young angler ever caught!

## Citizen Advisor Response Exceptional

Nearly 90 people responded to our call for Citizen Advisor nominees. These nominees will be involved in a selection process to choose the eight citizen advisors who will give input on FWP Region One programs. More about this in the next issue of "Inside Tracks."

Thanks!

## Anglers: It Is Now Illegal to Transport Live Fish

A law passed by the 1995 Legislature makes it illegal to transport live fish in the Western and Central Fishing Districts. Anglers can keep fish alive while on a lake or stream, but must kill the fish as soon as they head home.

Four people have now been cited for illegal transplants. Anglers can report illegal activities by calling 1-800-TIPMONT.

This restriction is in response to over 200 illegal fish transplants statewide.

The Regional Fish Manager notes the new law shouldn't be a burden to legitimate anglers and that fish keep and taste the best if they are killed and cleaned immediately after being caught, then kept in a cooler. 🐟

## Managers Implement Wild Horse Island Plan (Cont.)

(Cont. from Page 1)  
to control the weeds.

FWP Park Ranger Todd Thorn noted that the herbicide Tordon was used in areas greater than 100 feet from the lakeshore. The program included spraying one area of knapweed on the island's highest point.

Thorn noted that other aspects of the management plan for the island are also being implemented. The island has been divided into various recreation zones to enhance visitor experiences and solitude. Also, managers are removing old wire left by homesteaders and others. In addition, five recreational landing areas are being

established around the island.

Wild Horse Island is a watchable wildlife paradise. The island supports a herd of bighorn sheep, numerous mule deer, ospreys, bald eagles, and several wild horses. Day-use only is allowed; not allowed are camping, fires, pets, smoking or bicycles. Several marinas in the area rent boats for people wishing to visit the island. A brochure describing opportunities at Wild Horse is available at the FWP office in Kalispell. 🐾



**CONTROL OF WEEDS** is one of the goals of the management plan being implemented on Wild Horse Island. FWP Park Ranger Todd Thorn examines a patch of the noxious weed leafy spurge on the south side of the Island.



FROM THE COMMISSIONER:

## Charlie Decker Talks about Hunting License Drawings



Well, June 1 has passed, and there are a couple of hundred very happy people — and several thousand who are unhappy! To those of you who drew a goat, sheep or moose tag, congratulations and good luck!! The rest of us will have to be content with elk and venison.

When I was first appointed to the Commission, I made a point of learning how the special tags' recipients are selected. I will try to explain what I learned.

When applications are received in Helena, they are checked to make sure that everything is filled out correctly. Then they are sorted into batches of 50 and assigned a number. FWP hires an independent firm to enter all the data from the applications. Then a computer program called "Random Number Generator" is used. It kicks out a number which is then matched with a corresponding number on an application.

This process is repeated until the quota is filled. The selection process is being audited this year, and the legislative audit report will be out by the end of the year.

The odds for drawing one of these special tags are about three percent. Applications were down about eight percent this year, but the odds are still pretty tough.

Montana is a popular place to hunt. Non-resident applications were up from 18,000 to 21,000 for big game combo tags this year.

The legislators passed HB 195 which allows the commission to set the price on non-resident tags for outfitted hunts. The challenge is for the commission to come up with a price that will sell 5,500 tags. No easy task! Some of the additional revenue raised by selling these tags will be used to compensate landowners to allow more public access on their land and some will be used to put more game wardens in the field.

If you would like to comment on any FWP issue, please call me at 293-4161. Your input makes the FWP Commission work! 🐾

## Anglers with Disabilities (Cont.)

(Cont. from Page 1)

Charterboat participants included:

**A-1 Fishing:** Russ Tindale, Matthew Tindale, Beau Renfro (844-3602)

**A-Able Fishing:** Don Holm (257-5214)

**Big Dipper Charters:** George Duffy (837-4658)

**Flathead Lake Charters:** Jeff Rach (837-2224)

**Glacier Fishing Charters:** Jim Landwehr, Mike Pitzen (892-2377)

Jack McGuire, Dave Minister: Private boat operators; Jim Tebay, Woods Bay Marina (837-6038)

The following businesses and individuals donated food for the barbecue: Buttreys, Kalispell Ice Plant, Tidymans, Costco, Eddy's Bread, Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, Super One Foods, Dick Perkins, Mark Andrews.

Jerry Howard arranged for the food and his wife, Ilene, baked cookies for dessert. Marty Watkins, Bob and Wanda Worley, and Harry Grove served as cooks. Beth Altman of Mission Mountain Enterprises and Janice Evenson of Flathead Industries also assisted in organizing the event.

Thanks to all these folks for helping to make the event a success, and showing that disabilities don't have to stand in the way of a great fishing experience! 🐾

## Homeowners Assn. Installs Safety Buoys in Whitefish Lake

Thanks to the initiative of Richard Solberg and the Glenwood Homeowners Association, boaters on Whitefish Lake now will be more aware of a shallow, hazardous bay near Glenwood Point.

"We got involved," said Solberg, "to reduce the needless damage to boats we've seen over the past few years."

Frank Bowen of FWP said that the agency provided funds for the buoys while the homeowners installed them and will maintain them from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Bowen noted that the dollars were allocated by Montana House Bill 600 and the Citizen Boating Advisory Council.

"It's a great project because FWP and the public are meeting halfway to make things better," Bowen said. 🐾



**FOR SAFETY.** Glenwood Homeowners Association's Richard Solberg (right) and FWP's Frank Bowen discuss placement of warning buoys near Glenwood Point.



# Boy Scouts Improve Habitat at Rogers Lake Inlet

Grayling in Rogers Lake west of Kalispell have received a little help from the eagles (scouts, that is.)


In cooperation with FWP's Hungry Horse Mitigation Program and Plum Creek Timber, Justin Stevens and about a dozen other Boy Scouts improved spawning habitat in the lake's inlet stream. Justin led the project as part of his requirements to become an eagle scout.

The scouts and FWP fisheries workers removed an old spawn-taking structure, armored the stream banks with cobble to prevent erosion and dredged fine silts out of the streambed gravels. The cobbles also narrowed the stream to increase water velocity and keep the gravels clean of silt.

The project has met with approval from the fish in Rogers Lake. According to Fisheries Worker Gary Michael, westslope cutthroat trout were spawning in the stream shortly after completion of the project.

FWP stocked Rogers Lake with grayling and cutthroat trout after perch were removed. The perch were planted illegally and wiped out the grayling several years ago. The inlet stream had traditionally served as the major

spawning area for grayling in north-west Montana and fisheries biologists

expect the introduced grayling to reestablish a spawning run. 



*COBBLES placed along the inlet stream to Rogers Lake will stabilize the stream banks and help keep the stream free of silt for spawning grayling. About a dozen Boy Scouts provided the manpower for this improvement project, with scout Justin Stevens leading the group.*

## Outdoor Natural Resource Classes Offered

The Glacier Institute continues to expand its excellent list of outdoor education classes. These classes offer knowledge of aquatic and land ecology, and excitement!

Upcoming classes include: Wild Glacier Adventure Camp, ages 12-14, July 2-7 and July 23-28, a week of camping, hiking,

white water rafting, and outdoor skills; and Natural History Camp, July 30-August 4; Ecology Afield, ages 15-18, August 6-13, ecosystems, field research techniques. For more information on these and other offerings, contact the Glacier Institute at 756-3911, or 888-5215.

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